

DISBURSE

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Guard Says He Took CIA Sub Memo

By William Farr
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A super-secret memo to Howard Hughes describing the CIA's plan to raise a sunken Russian submarine was taken from the billion-dollar Hollywood communications center by security guard Mike Davis and later destroyed by him, Davis told the Los Angeles Times yesterday.

Authorities had previously believed the document was lost when burglars who broke into the Hughes communications center in 1964 stole a cache of papers.

It is unclear whether an obscure, but well-known, security guard was actually paid to make a copy of the super-secret, most expensive and sensitive intelligence mission—one that cost hundreds of mil-

lions of dollars and six years of prodigious effort.

In an interview with a Times reporter, Davis, hearing the same disclosure to the district attorney's office and police detective, Davis said:

"After the burglary had gone, and I had been able to get to a phone to call for help, I noticed two pieces of paper on the floor near the door to Ray Clemm's office. The burglars must have dropped them there.

"One of the papers was just a typewritten memo to HRH and the other looked like a check with a lot of zeros on it.

"My hands were still partially tied together with tape so I had to sort of scoop the papers up and take them into my room. In all the excitement that followed with the arrival of the police and everything, I forgot that I had the documents.

"It was just an accident, I don't know how it happened. I was just a security guard and I was in the building when the burglars came. When I saw what I did I panicked.

"One document was a memo saying that the CIA wanted to build a ship or

something to bring up a Russian sub. I don't remember all the details, but I recall that I said President Nixon knew about it and that the FBI would look the other

Back Page Col. 5
From Page 1

way on how the money was being put in.

The other document was actually a deposit note for \$100,000 made payable to Clemm. For several months I kept both the memo and the note in a bedroom drawer.

"When all the publicity began to break on the submarine business about a month ago, I tore on the memo and flushed it down the toilet. Then I took Clemm's deposit note and put it in a friend's safe.

"Clemm is a top executive with the CIA and was the director of the submarine program from the very beginning of the program. The program was to build a ship or something to bring up a Russian sub. I don't know how it was supposed to work, but I know it was a big deal.

By his actions, Davis set into motion an investigation that was to envelop CIA Director William Colby, FBI Chief

Clarence Kelley, Los Angeles County District Attorney Joseph Busch, Police Chief Edward Davis and the news media.

Operating on the belief that the burglars had stolen the secret sub memo and that it was among the pirated documents they had attempted to ransom for \$1 million, these high officials and some of the nation's leading publications joined in an extraordinary effort to keep the lid of secrecy on the project because of national security ramifications.

"Had I had any idea what the memo involved, something of that magnitude, my whole life and action would have been different," Davis said last night yesterday.

"I know that I made a mistake, but as tough as it is for me, I am going to clear everything up."

Davis was dismissed by the Hughes organization shortly after the burglary because he was unable to take an oath of secrecy.